

Chair Burdick, Vice-Chair Baetschiger and Honorable members of the Senate Rules Committee.

I am writing in opposition to SB451 that would give special treatment to Covanta Municipal and Medical Waste Incineration. I pay extra each month to purchase clean electricity. I am also concerned about the escalating greenhouse gases in our shared atmosphere. Making this exception for Covanta will adversely impact the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS), my utility's commitment to me for clean energy, and add to the greenhouse gases in our atmosphere.

Amendment one suggests that separation of the waste they burn into biomass and anthropomorphic waste will somehow solve the issue. Burning **biomass** emits large amounts of pollutants, just like burning other solid fuels such as coal. Burning organic material emits particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), lead, mercury, and other hazardous air pollutants (HAPs). Clearly not clean. Is it 'renewable'?

The Oregon Department of Energy defines '[renewable](#)' for the RPS as the source of power can be used repeatedly because it is replaced naturally, like wind or the sun.

No where do they allow plastics, painted wood, styrofoam, treated leather, medications, gauze, latex, electronic parts and other waste we toss in our garbage as a renewable energy source. Unlike some of my environmentalist friends I am not opting for immediate shut down of all waste incinerators. That leads to other problems. I think it is better to use the power generated from these processes in our electric grid (better than fossil fuels). I DO NOT think this type of power should be awarded a Renewable Energy Certificate and be sold at a higher price.

We can't turn off all of our dirty power generation overnight but we do not, and should not call it 'clean'. Even the biomass is not clean and I doubt Covanta is capable of separating it. I'm not in my municipal trash bins.

I urge you to vote NO on SB451. Please do not send it to the Senate floor. I have copied my Senator.

I also urge you to ensure that Covanta does not get an exemption under HB2020. As one of the larger emitters in Oregon they were initially exempt from emissions and with the -31 and -84 amendments are now, correctly, covered by cap and trade. This will encourage them to reduce their emissions.

I know Covanta has made large campaign contributions to many in the legislature. We citizens and constituents need to know we have an honest legislature that will be influenced by what is good for Oregonians and our environment and NOT which corporation brings in the money.

Respectfully submitted,

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